

The Metro Parks and Recreation Department takes pride in providing Nashville area residents and visitors with clean, safe, and well-maintained parks. One of the highest priorities of the Department and staff is the mowing and maintenance of open spaces, athletic fields, golf courses, lawns, and other recreational areas for the enjoyment of park customers.

The mission statement of the Department also recognizes our responsibility to preserve and protect the region's natural resources. Some park properties are managed as natural areas to provide wildlife habitat, nesting sites for birds and other animals, and diversity of plant communities. Along riparian zones, this management strategy contributes to water quality and erosion control. These natural areas are ideal locations for the Department's popular environmental education programs, and for research projects conducted by students and faculty of area high schools and universities.

At first glance, these areas may appear in need of mowing or bush hogging, when in reality they are maintained as components of the Natural Resource Management program. Some are mowed on one, two, or three year schedules, to encourage a wide variety of herbaceous meadow plants while controlling the succession of woody plants. This management strategy has been implemented in a variety of park locations, including greenways and golf courses.

Park customers who are interested in learning more about Natural Resource Management and the Natural Areas Program are encouraged to contact staff at the Centennial Park Administration Office by calling 862-8400.